GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PERSONNEL,PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1719
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2000
NATIONAL VIGILANCE CORPS
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of PERSONNEL,PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission has mooted a proposal for the setting up of a National Vigilance Corps on the lines of the National Service Scheme;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(c) the status of the other proposals received by the Government from Central Vigilance Commission?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS` WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. VASUNDHRA RAJE)

(a), (b) & (c): A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b) & (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1719 FOR ANSWER ON 2.8.2000

(a) & (b): The Central Vigilance Commission sought the suggestions from the Department of Education and the Ministry of Culture, Youth Affairs & Sports about how best the Youth Energy could be harnessed to fight the menace of corruption in the country. The Ministry of Culture, Youth Affairs & Sports has felt that the manner and extent to which youth volunteers may be involved in the process of checking/exposing corruption would be a sensitive issue to be handled with due care. This suggestion was also discussed in the Conference of State Vigilance Commissioners/Chiefs of Anti-Corruption Bureaux held under the chairmanship of the Central Vigilance Commissioner on 19th June, 2000 where several sensitive issues were raised in this regard which will need to be taken into account before any scheme is finalised.

(c): The status of some of the other important proposals received by the Government from the Central Vigilance Commission is as under:-

(i) Enactment of Whistle Blowers` Act

On the basis of the practice in Britain and other countries like the United States of America, the Central Vigilance Commission has addressed the Law Commission in this regard.

(ii) Enactment of Freedom of Information Act

The Freedom of Information Bill 2000 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 25th July, 2000.

(iii) Enactment of Corrupt Public Servants (Forfeiture of Property) Act.

After examination of the 166th Report of Law Commission containing proposed legislation in this regard, the Department of Personnel & Training felt that provision for forfeiture of property illegally acquired by the public servants can be created within the frame work of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 by carrying out suitable amendments. The Ministry of Law has agreed with the views of the Department of Personnel & Training. However, the matter is further under examination in consultation with legal experts.

(iv) Implementation of Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, (1988)

The Benami Transaction (Prohibition) Act, 1988 was passed by the Parliament in the year 1988. The Act provides for prohibition of benami transactions and the right to recover property held benami. In terms of Section 8 of the Act, the Central Government is required to make rules for carrying out the purposes thereof.

The Department of Revenue has informed that rules could not be framed owing to legal shortcomings that were indicated by the Ministry of Law. However, modifications to the Act have been suggested by the Department of Revenue to take care of shortcomings in the Act and the proposal is stated to have been sent by that Department to the Ministry of Law for vetting.